Files, declassification 10/18/69

If it was not earlier apparent, the 11/10/64 Goldberg memo in PC 16 makes it apparent the availability of those Commission files not still classified is neither the gift nor the forecast of the scholar on its staff, the professional historian, who anticipated little more than what was to be in the hearings would be available.

His great concern is with the maintainance of the classifications imposed on the documents.

It is strangely in the spirit of thw whole thing that he heads his memo on the questions relating to declassification "Organization of the Commission's files" when he drafted it two weeks after the Commission ended its official existence. This, too, is in keeping with the prevailing spirit, for even then it was late for th real organizations of files.

At not one point in this memo does Goldberg the professional historian reflect any proper concern that the enormity of the Commission's accumulation on so vital a subject be made accessible to those desiring it. His preoccupation is with preserving vlassification, leaving no stone unturned to prevent the adding of information together to the end that omissions might be reconstructed, and only those responsible for the classification are visualized as competent to pass upon declassification.

While he is aware of the defamatory material that is being published, much of it needlessly defamatory, it is never understood by him that almost without exception nothing relating to the left or the suspected left is at any point withheld by anyone for any reason, as long as it is defamatory. Much relating to the right is withheld.

Thought about this memo alone, only one of the general subject that he wrote, leadsmto the conclusion that Goldberg, rather than displaying the concerns of th sincere, dedicated scholar reveals himself as a government hack whose preoccupation is that the norms of the bureaucracy be observed. He is entirely without apprehension that what should not be restricted will be by those originally responsible for it.

With such a symbolic participation of scholarship on the Commission staff, the wonder is that as much as is available is available.